

Montana Sportsmen ALLIANCE

Voice of Reason on Montana Fish and Wildlife Issues

TO THE HOUSE FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS COMMITTEE:

RE: HB 144-Allow hound hunting for black bears

POSITION: Montana Sportsmen's Alliance hereby goes on record **OPPOSING** this bill based on the following reasons:

- Fall season conflicts with other sportsman groups. Hounds would be disruptive to other activities already in progress.
- With spring seasons we have concerns that sows with cubs could be chased, and that could put either dogs or bears in potential trouble.
- Wildlife harassment is an issue at any time of the year, but spring time is especially a concern. Disturbances caused by hounds could have negative effects on pregnant female ungulates, and displace other wildlife at a crucial time.
- Montana has a growing Grizzly bear population. How would that effect delisting? We do know that a mix of hounds, Grizzly bears, and man wouldn't work too well.
- According to MT Fish Wildlife & Parks personnel, black bear populations are sustainable right now. With a hound season added, other types of bear hunting opportunities could be impacted negatively.

Once again we would like to state our **OPPOSITION** for HB 144

Thank you for your time and consideration. Montana Sportsmen Alliance Leadership Group

Vito Quatraro-Bozeman	580-1130
Joe Perry-Brady	627-2369
John Borgreen-Great Falls	453-4273
Sam Milodragovich-Butte	490-2224
Robert Wood-Hamilton	531-5043
JW Westman-Laurel	633-2415

www.montanasportsmenalliance.com
www.pac.montanasportsmenalliance.com
P.O. Box 1324 | Hamilton, Montana 59840